

REMARKS

Overview

Claims 1-58 currently stand allowed, and the Examiner has objected to claim 61 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner also responded in the prior Office Action as follows: rejected claims 68-69 and 71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Dunston et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0082954); rejected claims 59 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jenkins et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0188499); and rejected claims 81-85, 87, 94, 96, and 100-101 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Greamo et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0095307). The status of claims 60, 62, 64-67, 70, 72-80, 86, 88-93, 95, and 97-99, including the basis of rejection (if any) of these claims, is unclear.

Applicants hereby amend claims 59 and 62 in order to clarify the subject matter of their invention, and also hereby cancel claims 61 and 63-101. Thus, claims 1-60 and 62 are pending.

Analysis

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter among the pending claims. While Applicants disagree that the cited prior art renders obvious any of the previously pending claims, Applicants have amended the claims in order to expedite prosecution so that all of the pending claims are in a form believed to be indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, as discussed below. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to timely indicate allowance of all pending claims.

In particular, claims 1-58 have been allowed, and claims 63-101 have been canceled. In addition, Applicants have also canceled previously allowable dependent claim 61, and incorporated its claim elements into independent claim 59 – thus independent claim 59 as amended and its pending dependent claims are all in allowable form. Independent computer system claim 62 recites similar claim elements as independent claim 59 and has been amended in

a manner similar to claim 59, and thus claim 62 is also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 59.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable, and therefore respectfully request that the Examiner timely issue a Notice Of Allowance for all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 694-4815.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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